



**THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Rice County, Minnesota  
408 Division Street, Northfield, MN  
[ricecogs.blogspot.com](http://ricecogs.blogspot.com)

**Spring 2017**

The Rice County Genealogical Society meets at 2:00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday September –May alternating between the Rice County Historical Society Museum, 1814 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Faribault and at various locations in Northfield. When the Northfield meeting locations are determined they will be posted on our new RCGS website and members will be notified by email.

**MEETING DATES:**

September	19, 2017.....	Faribault	2:00 Rice County Historical Society Museum
October	17, 2017.....	Northfield	2:00 (place to be determined)
November	21, 2017.....	Faribault	2:00 Rice County Historical Society Museum
December	19, 2017.....	Northfield	11:30 Lunch and meeting (place to be determined)

**OFFICERS:**

President: Paul Fonstad	<a href="mailto:pffonstad@gmail.com">pffonstad@gmail.com</a>
Vice President: Dave Madole	<a href="mailto:davemadole@hotmail.com">davemadole@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary: Mary Zabel	<a href="mailto:select2@kmwb.net">select2@kmwb.net</a>
Treasurer: Noreen Giefer	<a href="mailto:nmking54@hotmail.com">nmking54@hotmail.com</a>

**FROM PRESIDENT Paul Fonstad:**

Should inclement weather occur on our meeting dates we will try to reach all members via email or phone to let them know the meeting is being canceled. No one should venture out if they feel it would be unsafe.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions, at email: [pffonstad@gmail.com](mailto:pffonstad@gmail.com) or phone 507-645-0201

**MEMBERSHIP:** Dues are \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family. Find an application on the back of this newsletter. The Rice Gleanings newsletter is included with membership. To contribute to the Newsletter contact Harriet Berg [hgbgmn@ix.netcom.com](mailto:hgbgmn@ix.netcom.com). Members are actively working on their family lines and searching out the history of those who came to live in or passed through Rice County. Though based in Rice County, members' interests are also worldwide.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

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## New Website and Facebook for RCGS

Kathryn Ness

Our group is introducing two new ways to keep up with RCGS through a website and a presence on Facebook.

The website was created on blogspot; a free site that is easy to update and is very flexible. It is

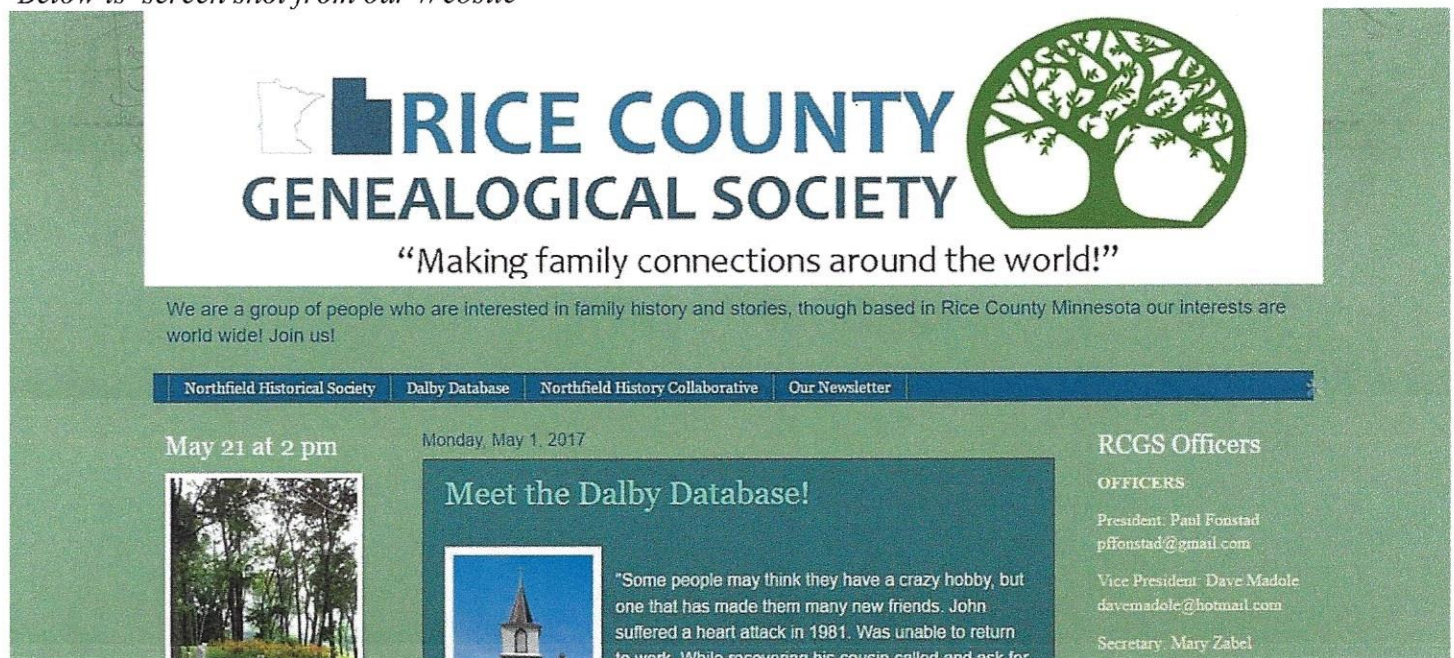
**<http://ricecogs.blogspot.com/>**

Our website has details of upcoming meetings, links to Northfield Historical Society, Dalby Database, Northfield Collaborative, etc., and some past RCGS Newsletters.

Our Facebook presence is **Rice County Genealogical Society**. You do need a Facebook account to see it. Facebook is free and you can customize your levels of security/privacy as you wish. There is a link on Facebook to our website.

Please send any ideas or comments you have on either page to me, Kathy Ness, at [kjl.ness@gmail.com](mailto:kjl.ness@gmail.com) or to our President Paul Fonstad at [pffonstad@gmail.com](mailto:pffonstad@gmail.com).

*Below is screen shot from our Website*



## A Ship Manifest Record Found

From the muddled desk of the RCGS President

Fellow Genealogists,

I was asked to write a short column for this issue of the newsletter. There was, at the time, no particular thing happening in my genealogy world that I thought would provide me with subject matter for a short (or long) note.

But then a couple of weeks ago I discovered the ship's manifest that listed my one set of great-grandparents. This, for me, had become a key element for my second attempt to tell the story of my mother's maternal family. A family I had almost no knowledge of before I got interested in genealogy. I had looked earlier for the information and had emigration details on my great-grandmother's brother, her sister and brother-in-law, a half-



sister, another half-sister and her husband and her maternal grand-parents but nothing about her and my to be great-grandfather. I was pretty sure they had traveled together because they were both registered with the Danish police on the same day. I even had a journal entry from one of their sons who was recounting their emigration from memory, mind you that said, my great-grandmother stayed in New York to work as a nanny for a while and my great-grandfather continued on to Neenah, Wisconsin.

Other online genealogy helpers could not find them and in fact some of them spoke discouragingly of ever finding the information. Ships manifests were only available for forty percent of the emigrants, and so forth.

My earlier attempt at writing the family story had just followed the typical chronology of events. It seemed as if it was an annotated calendar and did its' best to be a boring read. Finding this information has challenged my procrastination about getting started on Revision 2 of the Skafte family story.

If there is a lesson to be learned by my experience it would have to be don't give up on trying to find a bit of information. Sometimes it may as simple as someone indexing that bit of information that you are looking for and justifies your persistence.

Thanks for listening,  
Paul Fonstad

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## **Genealogy Web Sites**

This List is courtesy of and reprinted with permission of Alice Nadeau, Volunteer, Archives & Genealogy Team, Steel County Historical Society

<http://home.ancestry.com/>  
<http://archives.gov/>  
<http://www.billiongraves.com/>  
<http://www.cyndislis.com/categories/>  
<http://www.dalbydata.com/user.php?action=cemsearchresults>  
<http://www.familysearch.org/>  
<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>  
<http://www.findagrave.com/>  
<http://www.mnhs.org/>  
<http://pgsa.org/database.php>  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>  
<http://www.immigrantships.net/>  
<http://www.usgenweb.org/>  
[http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page)  
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Content.aspx?dsNav=N:1220>  
<http://www.raogk.org/>  
<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/>  
<http://www.castlegarden.org/>  
<http://www.expertgenealogy.com/free/>  
[http://www.digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e\\_Norway](http://www.digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e_Norway)  
<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>  
[http://genealogy.about.com/od/us\\_census/a/agricultural-census.htm?nl=1](http://genealogy.about.com/od/us_census/a/agricultural-census.htm?nl=1)  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

## From John Dalby and the Dalby database

Bridge Second  
Street

1862 Headline--SECOND STREET BRIDGE SAILS DOWN THE RIVER! Spring and its accompanying thaws, swollen rivers, muddy roads, and showers presented problems for Faribault residents even in Civil War days. On a certain spring day in the year 1862, a bridge that now spans the Straight river at Second street was carried all the way to Dundas by the swelling waters. Others were also endangered. An account of the mishap, as it appeared in the Faribault Central Republican, forerunner of the Daily News, follows: "On Friday last, we had a general thaw, accompanied by pleasing and agreeable showers of mist and rain which rendered the preambulation of our streets a most delightful and scientific entertainment. The numerous navigable streams that poured their turbid waters through all our streets, and the safe transit over or through which was a task which called into requisition the exercised of all the engineering skill and fortitude of the human mind, all found an outlet in the river. At night, to cap the climax, we had a heavy and long continuous shower of rain, a perfect deluge as it were, and torrents of water from every sluice, from every depression in the surface of the ground, were poured into the already overflowing waters of the river. Some of the results of an overdose of even so mild a liquid as cold rain water are not so very desirable or pleasant as one might be led to suppose from the nature and property of the fluid. Saturday morning, the ice in the river commenced breaking up and the huge pieces that were swept down by the current made sad havoc with bridges. The old bridge that has for five years with stood the ravages of time and the relentless fury of the floods, that spans the river at the foot of Second street was among the victims. About 10 a. m. Saturday, we observed a commotion in the neighborhood of the bridge, and the next moment the broken fragments of the brige were seen to proudly float away around the curve by the brewery and disappear. We imagined we heard a farewell sigh escape from the dejected crowd as they cast one last lingering look upon the dismantled wreck as it passed from view. On Sunday, the river was higher than on Saturday, and blocked with ice from the new bridge as far as the eye could reach, while from the bridge downstream near Mr. Frederick Faribault's place the river was also filled with ice, and it was with fearful forebodings that we anxiously awaited the giving away of the ice, for we considered it next to an impossibility for the lower bridge to stand the shock, as there was a bend exactly in the middle of the stream to support the bridge, a fair mark for the huge pieces of ice. At length, the critical moment arrived, the whole mass of ice commenced moving, slowly at first, but accelerating its speed until it acquired a dangerous velocity. Every piece that struck the large upright post would shake the bridge and cause it to quiver like an aspen, and with a crash the ice would swing around and move on its way, but the post, though moved a foot from its original position, still stood, and after the ice, as we thought, had all passed through, we turned our steps homeward; but hardly had a moment elapsed before the ice again begun to move, and this time it did its work from the lower bridge. The bent was ruthlessly torn out, but owing to the strength of the stringers and the workmanlike manner in which they were put together, the bridge still maintains its position, notwithstanding the knocking out of its pins. How much other towns may have suffered, we are unable to learn, but presume that a number of bridges must have been carried away. The new suspension bridge, we believe, is uninjured, unless, perhaps, a few stones in the foundation were torn out. FDN. 1949.



SCHOOL DIST. # 20 Section 15, Forest Twsp., Rice County, Millerburg, Minn. DISTRICT NO. 20---This is the district embracing the village of Millersburg and surrounding territory. The first school was taught by Ellen Cress, in a log house on section eleven, belonging to Mr. Eaton; this took place in 1857, and there were ten scholars in attendance. The first school officers were Messrs. Taylor, Dunham, and Geo. W. Miller. A schoolhouse was erected the year after organizing, 1858, which lasted for a number of years when they erected their present house in the western part of the village.

Village Northfield BOOK - MINNESOTA GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY - 1865: A post village of Rice county, is situated on the Cannon River, near the eastern limits of the "Big Woods," which extend from this river to the Minnesota. On the eastern bank of the Cannon, the prairie, dotted here and there with groves, stretches to the Mississippi, while to the west the woods with frequent openings and settlements, extend for a distance of fifty miles. Northfield is distant from St. Paul 36 miles south, from Hastings 25 miles, from Red Wing 35 miles, and from Faribault, the county seat, 15 miles north. The town was laid out in 1855, by J. W. North, after whom it was named. Immigration set in here rapidly in 1856, which was checked for a time by the panic of 1857, but has recovered from the effects of that reverse, and the town as well as the surrounding county is fast filling up, with an intelligent, enterprising and industrious population. The cars of the Minnesota Central Railroad are expected to run through this place to Faribault, the coming fall. Population 900. Harriet T. Kensley, postmistress.

Village Dundas BOOK - MINNESOTA GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY - 1865: A post village of Rice county, situated on the Cannon river, distant from Faribault, the county seat 12 miles, from the Mississippi river 30 miles, and 40 miles from St. Paul. The Cannon river affords a good water power here, upon which is located the well known Dundas Flouring Mill. The Minnesota Central Railroad which is already graded, passes through the village. Situated in the edge of the Big Woods, with all kinds of good timber close at hand, and being the natural centre of a rich agricultural section, Dundas presents good inducements to capitalists as a manufacturing point. The village of Dundas was laid out in 1859. Population 250. G. N. Archibald postmaster.

AMES JESSE CAPTAIN BIOGRAPHY BOOK - HISTORY OF RICE COUNTY 1882. CAPTAIN JESSE AMES was born at Vinal Haven, Knox county, Maine, on the 4th of February, 1808. He lived on a farm until fifteen years of age, then went to sea and at the age of twenty-three was master of a merchant vessel. On the 27th of October, 1832, Miss Martha Tolman became his wife. She is a daughter of Thomas Tolman, of Rock-land, Maine. Mrs. Ames sailed round the world twice with her husband, who, after being captain of a vessel thirty years, made his last voyage in 1861, coming from New Zealand to London, and thence home, after selling his vessel. Having a son in Minnesota, he visited the State and concluded to cast anchor here for life, and after two years spent in farming in the county, located in Northfield. In October, 1864, Mr. Ames and his sons purchased the flouring mill at this place, and the "Northfield" brand of flour, made by Jesse Ames & Sons, and now by Jesse Ames' Sons, is in high repute. In 1868, Mr. Ames was in the Legislature and was also a member of the Convention at Chicago, which nominated Grant the first term. He has two children; John T. and Adelbert.



CHURCH FRENCH  
CATHOLIC

French Catholic Church Wheatland On January 23, 1861, Thomas Lambert deeded 10 acres of land, lying in section 29 of Wheatland Township, for the sum of one dollar, to Rev. Augustine Raveux. A church was built on the southwest corner of the one acre plot which is the cemetery. Not much is known of this church except that it was served by a priest from Faribault, and later by one from Shieldsville. About 1906 it ceased to be used as a church and in 1916 it was torn down. This church was served as a Mission from Faribault, and later from Shieldsville. The last services were held by the Priest from the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, at Lonsdale. Rev. August Raveux was the priest who built this church. Later priests, who had charge of this Mission, were Rev. Paget (not certain of correct spelling) and then Rev. J.J. Slevin. Services were held in this church once a month. The parish was composed of the French and Irish Catholics who lived in the vicinity, Wheatland, Webster, Erin and Forest Townships. Also probably a few from the eastern part of LeSeuer County. There were many Bohemian Catholics in this territory. They built a church at Veseli. This was because of the language. Most of the older Bohemians could speak but very little English, and the French and Irish, no Bohemian. At one time there were about forty families attending services at, and belonging to, this church. With the decline in population of the Village of Wheatland, the church also suffered a loss of membership. As Lonsdale was settled mostly by Bohemians, they built a church there. Because they knew no Bohemian, the old French and Irish still kept their little church. About 1906 the priest from Lonsdale came and held services in this church. There were only about 15 families left. Due to the fact that there was a Catholic Church at Veseli, and also one at Lonsdale, and because of the expense of keeping a church for so few members, it was at this time decided to abandon this church. At this time Tom Plaisance was the secretary. Tom and Philip Plaisance were the choir, and Eugene Plaisance assisted at Mass. In 1907 the property was deeded to the Lonsdale parish. In 1916 the building was moved to Lonsdale, where it was used as a school. The foregoing information was given by George Caron, who was a member of this parish from the time of his birth, 1867, to its dissolution, 1906. Lester Blais, Rice County, October 20, 1937

**BOOK - HISTORY OF RICE & STEELE COUNTIES, PUB. 1910 INCIDENTS AND EVENTS. 1865.** The census of Faribault was 2,339. Of these 1,216 were males, and 1,123 females. There were sixty-nine soldiers in the service at that time. In 1860 the population was 1,520. The Sisters of St. Clara Benton, five in number, arrived in Faribault in August to establish a school. The Central Minnesota Railroad got in operation as far as Northfield in September. During the year 1865 sixty buildings went up in Faribault. 1866. In the winter of this year the demand for more and better buildings was quite urgent. The Good Templars reorganized at Faribault on January 22, with a good list of charter members and capable officers. There was a legislative excursion to Faribault in the fall. Governor Marshall and other state officers were present. It was in the interest of the educational institutions. In April a meeting was held to see about the establishment of a Congregational college, which was subsequently located in Northfield. The corner-stone of the Shattuck grammar school at Faribault was laid with appropriate ceremonies on July 26. The total number of farms under cultivation in Rice county was 1,200. Number of sheep, 16,947. St. Mary's Hall was opened at Faribault, October 31.



Jean LaRue

Faribault Journal 2 July 1919

MAN'S BODY IN TREE SINCE 1862 IS FOUND

The Le Sueur News tells about a startling discovery made recently on the farm of Edward Gleek of Ottawa Township in the woods along the river. In clearing a piece of land it became necessary to cut down a gigantic White Oak tree which broke in falling, disclosing the fact that it was hollow for a distance of about fifteen feet, beginning several feet above the ground and the cavity ending in a large opening concealed among the branches of the lower side of the tree, which leaned considerably. Within this hollow was found by the horrified choppers the mummified body of a man, not at all decayed, but dried and shriveled by the lapse of time into something revealing the best Egyptian art. Mr. Gleek, on being summoned by the frightened laborers, recognized at once in the mummy the body of Jean LaRue, a former servant of Mr. Gleek, who had mysteriously disappeared from the farm August 30, 1862. On that day, which was during the Sioux uprising, a boat load of soldiers on their way up the Minnesota River from St. Paul to New Ulm, foolishly discharged their muskets many times as they steamed up the river above Henderson, carrying terror to the hearts of people along the river who were already about to flee from the dreaded Indians. At Le Sueur one of the bullets thus discharged wounded a small boy, Cyrus McEwen, in the leg. Mr. Gleek says that when Jean LaRue heard the firing he seemed nearly to lose his reason from fear, rushed into the house, seized his rifle and some other belongings, including about \$700 in money and fled into the woods. He must have known of this hollow tree, sought to hide there, slipped too far down, and being unable to extricate himself, must have perished there where his body, preserved in the living oak, failed to decay. His rifle, bullet pouch and powder horn were found by him and the money, \$783.50, was found in his pocket. Also there was found in his diary which Mr. Gleek says LaRue always faithfully kept, and in it undated, but on the page following the one dated Friday, August 29, 1862, was written in trembling words the following: If ever found, send me and all my money to my mother Madam Suzanne LaRue, near Tarascon, in the Province of Bouches, Du Phone, France.

Through the Consul at Marseilles, Mr. Gleek will endeavor to learn something of the dead man's relatives, but there is not much hope of doing so at this late date.

Joseph Salome

Faribault Republican 6 Nov 1896

Some person in the woods a mile or more northeast of the site of the Walcott Mills on Monday came across the bones of a human being lying under a tree on the west bank of the Straight River. The Sheriff and Coroner were notified and they spent most of yesterday in an investigation of the mystery. From the clothing found the remains are believed to be those of Joseph Salome, who, about two months ago, attempted to shoot his wife, and failing in his purpose, shot at his sister-in-law, Mrs. VanNious, and wounded her in the head. Salome's gun was found a week later but no trace has ever been found of him. The presumption is that supposing he had killed Mrs. VanNious he went and hung himself, using his shirt instead of a rope. The flesh had all disappeared and the bones were scattered on the ground about the root of the tree on which the body had hung. The spot selected was very secluded and when the trees were in full foliage the body could not have been seen a dozen feet away. An inquest will be held to-day.

Rice County Genealogical Society  
408 Division Street  
Northfield, MN 55057

Stamp

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$10 per year  
\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$12 per year

Send application with check payable to Rice County Genealogical Society

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